

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-06
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DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:FHARTLEY:LL

APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY

IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER

L/UNA:AKRECZKO

IO/ML:MJACOBS

IO/UCS:WHARLEY

EUR/WE:JFDOBBINS

EUR/NE:JPSHUMATE

EUR/CAN:JHROUSE

EUR/CE:SMKLINGAMAN

IO/UNESCO:CWARVARIV

USIA/IEU:INFO

USIA/IOP:INFO

EUR/NE:CSCHALLER

EUR/NE:RWOODS

EUR/NE:DDONCHI

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R 140053Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064358

NESCO, USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, PORG, SOPN

SUBJECT: UNESCO DRAFT DECLARATION ON MASS MEDIA PRINCIPLES

1. D-PT DESIRES TO BRING POSTS UP TO DATE ON STATUS OF DRAFT DECLARATION ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING USE OF THE MASS MEDIA IN STRENGTHENING PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING AND IN COMBATTING WAR PROPAGANDA, RACISM AND APARTHEID. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THIS DOCUMENT, WHICH CONTAINED HIGHLY OBJECTIONABLE AND TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE FEATURES, WAS DERAILED AT THE 1976 UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC) THROUGH A VIGOROUS DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE AND CLOSE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE USG AND WEO ALLIES. GC RESOLUTION REQUESTED DIRECTOR GENERAL (DG) TO CONDUCT FURTHER BROAD CONSULTATIONS AIMING TO ACHIEVE THE "LARGEST POSSIBLE MEASURE OF AGREEMENT" AND SUBMIT REVISED DRAFT AT 20TH GC WHICH CONVENES LATE OCTOBER 1978.

2. IN PAST SIX MONTHS, TWO REVISED TEXTS HAVE BEEN FLOATED AS UNOFFICIAL TRIAL BALLOONS. NEW TEXTS SHOW SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT OVER OLD DRAFT BUT NOT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME U.S. OBJECTIONS. PREAMBULAR LANGUAGE CITING UNGA RESOLUTION 3379 (ZIONISM/RACISM) HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, AND ARTICLE XII, WHICH WOULD MAKE STATES RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF MEDIA UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION, HAS BEEN DELETED. BUT LATEST TEXT STILL CONTAINS ASSUMPTION THAT MEDIA SHOULD BE HARNESSSED AS INSTRUMENT OF OFFICIAL POLICY;
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THAT CERTAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES MAY BE MANDATED UPON MEDIA AND OTHER PRACTICES RESTRICTED. ALTHOUGH DECLARATION WOULD BE NON-BINDING, DEPT CONCERNED THAT OUR TACIT ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH ASSUMPTIONS MIGHT: (A) WEAKEN OUR CAPACITY TO RESIST MORE FORMIDABLE ASSAULTS ON FREEDOM OF INFORMATION PRINCIPLE IN THE FUTURE; (B) PERMIT USE OF DECLARATION BY OTHERS AS A PRETEXT FOR RESTRICTIONS ON MEDIA; AND, (C) HEIGHTEN DOMESTIC OPPOSITION TO UNESCO.

3. UNESCO DG M'BOW HAS BEEN PERSONALLY INFORMED OF THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR OBJECTIONS AND UNACCEPTABILITY OF LATEST DRAFT TEXT. MOREOVER, UNESCO SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED DETAILED LEGAL ANALYSIS OF OUR POSITION AND ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE WE WOULD REGARD AS ACCEPTABLE. WE HAVE INDICATED OUR WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE, BUT WITH UNDERSTANDING WE WOULD NOT FORFEIT OPTION OF EVENTUAL OPPOSITION IN THE 20TH GC TO AN UNACCEPTABLE DRAFT. COPIES OF LATEST DRAFT TEXT, AIDE-MEMOIRE TO DG, AND DEPT'S LEGAL ANALYSIS ARE BEING POUCHED TO ADDRESSEE POSTS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DRAFT TEXT HAS NO OFFICIAL STANDING IN UNESCO AND HAS NOT BEEN CLEARED BY THE DG. THE TWO DEPT PAPERS SHOULD BE TREATED AS INFORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF OUR

POSITION, OFFERED AS GUIDANCE TO UNESCO IN A FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE SPIRIT.

4. DEPT IS CONCERNED OVER SCATTERED REPORTS INDICATING A GENERAL INDIFFERENCE TO NEW DRAFT TEXT IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHICH PROVIDED STALWART SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP IN OPPOSING THE OLD DRAFT. WE INFER THAT PROBLEM IS NOT SO MUCH A DIFFERENCE IN PRINCIPLE AS A TENDENCY TO DEPRECATE THE IMPORTANCE OF DRAFT DECLARATION BECAUSE OF ITS NON-BINDING NATURE. IF THIS HYPOTHESIS IS BORNE OUT, WE MAY FIND OURSELVES LACKING STRONG ALLIES AS WE PRESS FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE TEXT OR DEFEAT OF AN UNACCEPTABLE ONE.

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5. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE POSTS' COOPERATION IN ASCERTAINING, AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY, AMONG PERTINENT CONTACTS IN FOREIGN OFFICE AND MEDIA CIRCLES: (A) DEGREE OF GENERAL AWARENESS OF ISSUE, (B) PERCEPTION OF SALIENCE AND IMPORTANCE OF DRAFT DECLARATION, AND (C) WHETHER OR NOT THEY HAVE SEEN NEWEST TEXT, WHICH WAS CIRCULATED SELECTIVELY IN FEBRUARY. EMBOFFS SHOULD AT THEIR DISCRETION PROBE FOR GENERAL SOLIDARITY WITH U.S. VIEWS AND EXPLORE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COLLABORATE BEFORE AND DURING GC ON THIS ISSUE. PLEASE SLUG REPLIES FOR ATTENTION IO/UNESCO WITH INFO COPIES TO OTHER ADDRESSEES.

6. FOR EMBASSY PARIS: PLEASE COORDINATE SOUNDINGS AND RESPONSES WITH U.S. PERMANENT DELEGATION TO UNESCO. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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